

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-10 (canceled)

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for enabling a user to provide input values to a running program before the program needs the input values, comprising the steps of:

maintaining a bag buffer of variable/value pairs for use in executing the program in the program;

receiving a communication, including input values, from the user; and

temporarily storing said input values in said bag buffer.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of Claim 11 wherein said program subsequently performs a retrieving step wherein said program searches through contents of the bag buffer to locate needed input values before requesting input from said user.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of Claim 12 ~~further comprising the step of maintaining a bag buffer in the program~~ and wherein the retrieving step comprises the steps of:

searching, in the bag buffer, for input values associated with the input variables requested by said program;

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updating, if found, the input variables with the input values;

disposing, in an input buffer, the input variables, if not found; and

optionally notifying the user via electronic means if no suitable values are found in the bag buffer.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of Claim 13 wherein the electronic means is a pager and wherein said notifying comprises assembling and transmitting a page message to said user.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of Claim 13 wherein the electronic means is a beeper and wherein said notifying comprises assembling and transmitting a message to the beeper of said user.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of Claim 13 wherein the electronic means is electronic mail and wherein said notifying comprises assembling and transmitting a electronic mail message to said user.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of Claim 13 wherein the electronic means is a smart telephone and wherein said notifying comprises assembling and transmitting a message to the smart telephone of said user.

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18. (ORIGINAL) A computer program data structure comprising;

an output buffer for storing output values to be displayed to a user;

an input buffer for storing values for which user input of variables is required; and

a program state buffer for storing at least the present state of said program.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The data structure of Claim 18 further comprising a bag buffer for storing ~~input variables~~ variable/value pairs for use in executing said program.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The data structure of Claim 18 wherein the bag buffer is an ~~a~~ array data structure.

21. (ORIGINAL) The data structure of Claim 18 wherein the bag buffer is a hash table data structure.

22. (ORIGINAL) The data structure of Claim 18 wherein the bag buffer is a tuple space data structure.

23. (WITHDRAWN) An execution shell for a mobile program comprising:

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a routing component for maintaining routing information regarding said mobile program;

a processor component for processing user status requests related to said program; and

an execution component for executing at least part of said program.

24. (WITHDRAWN) The execution shell of Claim 23 further comprising a data handling component for receiving user input and storing same in at least one data structure for said program.